## Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph of column 1, lines 9-14, with the following:

[Ronguers]Rongeurs are used to excise tissue, degenerated disc materials or bone during surgical procedures. During regular use, tissue, blood, or other fluids collect in the voids between the top and bottom shafts of the instrument. Multiple uses result in a buildup of material. To clean a rongeur thoroughly it must be disassembled.

Please delete the entire paragraph of column 1, lines 51-54.

Please replace the paragraph of column 3, lines 53-58, with the following:

The preferred embodiment of the invention is illustrated in FIGS. 2–9B, [as well as in FIGS. 10A–16B,] and described in the text that follows. The reader should bear in mind, however, that what follows is a description of a particular embodiment, and that the details of this embodiment are not intended to limit the scope of the invention.

Please replace the paragraph of column 4, lines 47-62, with the following:

Driving slot 216 is not symmetrical. Due to a 14° slant from vertical ([FIG. 11A]FIGS. 5A–5C), it has an early exit on backside 227 with radius 226 and ramp 225 for driving pin 217 to travel along. (The profiles of backside 227, radius 226 and ramp 225, and the respective 9° and 14° slant angles of release knob 203 and driving slot 216, are observed to work in the preferred embodiment to make the release mechanism operate smoothly, but neither these profiles nor slant angles are believed to be critical to the fabrication of a working convertible

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instrument.) The position of ramp/radius 225, 226 relative to horizontal shaft/base 202 facilitates the "snap in" operation of the preferred embodiment. As noted above, driving pin 217 does not move vertically during seating and unseating; the front handle piece 206 with driving slot 216 actually moves down and out of the way as driving pin 217 is slid forward.

Please replace the paragraph of column 4, lines 63-67, with the following:

The screw 238 backing up release knob 203 is permanently locked into place. [BaHl]Ball bearing 234 and spring 235 in detent mechanism 234, 235, 236 is permanently installed in drill hole 230. Disassembly of any parts requiring tools is to be done by the manufacturer only.